

Message Text

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22

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: CRISIS IN THE CGT-O

REF: (A) MANAGUA 2181, (B) MANAGUA 2124

SUMMARY: THE GENERAL WORKERS' CONFEDERATION (CGT-O), A GOVERNMENT STEP-CHILD, HAS MOVED TOWARD AN OPEN SPLIT INTO FACTIONS ALIGNED WITH AND OPPOSED TO LABOR MINISTER CARDOZE. GON OFFICIALS OTHER THAN CARDOZE HAVE SHOWN LITTLE CONCERN ABOUT THE DISARRAY IN THE CGT-O. END SUMMARY

2. THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF LABOR MINISTER JULIO CARDOZE IN THE OFFICIAL GENERAL WORKERS' CONFEDERATION (CGT-O) INTENSIFIED WHEN SEVEN OF THE 15 MEMBERS OF THE CGT-O EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET ON AUGUST 16 AND VOTED TO SUSPEND THE LEADERS OF THE ANTI-CARDOZE FACTION, I.E., SECRETARY-GENERAL LEONIDAS MORALES AND POLITICAL SECRETARY ANDRES RUIZ ESCORCIA. MORALES AND RUIZ ESCORCIA WERE ACCUSED OF "VIOLATING THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE CGT" AND OF "MALIGNING COMPANEROS MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE." JESUS MARIA GARCIA, AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND CHIEF OF THE LABOR

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MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY PROTECTION, WAS ELECTED SECRETARY-

GENERAL AD INTERIM, IN PLACE OF MORALES.

2. THE ANTI-CARDOZE FORCES PROTESTED THAT THE ACTION WAS ILLEGAL BECAUSE FORMAL PROCEDURES HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWED. IN A COUNTER-MOVE, SOME OF THE ANTI-CARDOZE CGT-O EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MET ON AUGUST 22 AND CALLED FOR A SESSION OF THE FULL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 5 TO HEAR CHARGES AGAINST SECRETARY OF CONFLICTS PAULINO MARTINICA, CARDOZE'S PRINCIPAL ALLY IN THE CGT-O. MARTINICA IS TO BE ACCUSED OF HAVING APPROPRIATED FUNDS BELONGING TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY WORKERS' UNION AND HAVING ACCEPTED BRIBES FROM EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH "SWEETHEART" CONTRACTS.

3. COMMENT: THE CGT-O IS LARGELY A PAPER ORGANIZATION CREATED BY THE GON TO SERVE CERTAIN POLITICAL FUNCTIONS, E.G., TO PREVENT THE GROWTH OF INDEPENDENT UNIONS IN BUSINESSES OWNED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DISTRIBUTE PATRONAGE, ROUND UP WORKERS FOR POLITICAL RALLIES AND LEND A PRO-LABOR IMAGE TO THE GON.

4. ALTHOUGH CARDOZE PROFESSES TO BE A DISINTERESTED BYSTANDER, IT IS CLEAR THAT HE IS ATTEMPTING TO RESHAPE THE CGT-O LEADERSHIP TO HIS LIKING. HE SEEMS LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN THIS GOAL, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THE ANTI-CARDOZE FACTION IS APPARENTLY RECEIVING NO SUPPORT FROM GEN. JOSE R. SOMOZA, THE TRADITIONAL "GOD-FATHER" OF THE CGT-O. IN FACT, SEVERAL RECENT OCCURANCES SUCH AS THE CGT-O EXCLUSION FROM THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY RALLY (REFTEL B) SUGGEST A LACK OF GON INTEREST IN, OR CONCERN FOR, THE CONFEDERATION WHICH, BY DEFAULT, LEAVES CARDOZE A CLEAR FIELD.
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